

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS  
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. 1. A method of detecting communication between an  
electronic camera and an external device, comprising the  
steps of:

detecting, by the electronic camera, that the electronic  
camera is connected to the external device and the external  
device is in a state which permits communicating; and

communicating between the electronic camera and the  
external device, when the electronic camera is detected to be  
connected to the external device and the external device is  
detected to be in a state which permits communicating.

2. A method of detecting communication according to  
claim 1, further comprising the step of:

setting a switch on the electronic camera which  
indicates whether the electronic camera is to transmit or  
receive images,

wherein the communicating step transmits the images to  
the external device when the switch indicates that the  
electronic camera is to transmit the images; and

wherein the communicating step receives the images from  
the external device when the switch indicates that the  
electronic camera is to receive the images.

3. A method of detecting communication according to  
claim 2, wherein the step of setting the switch includes:

setting the switch on the electronic camera which is  
further used to indicate whether the electronic camera is to

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record captured through a lens of the electronic camera or to  
play images which are stored in the electronic camera, when  
the detecting step does not detect a connection of the  
electronic camera to the external device and the external  
5 device is in a state which permits communicating.

4. A method of detecting communication according to  
claim 1, wherein:

the detecting step monitors a signal output by the  
external device which indicates that the external device is  
ready to communicate.

5. A method of detecting communication according to  
claim 4, wherein:

the detecting step monitors a signal output by the  
external device which indicates that a data terminal is  
15 ready.

6. A method of detecting communication according to  
claim 5, wherein:

the detecting step monitors a data terminal ready (DTR)  
signal of an RS-232 signal output by the external device.

20 7. An electronic camera, comprising:

a lens;

a light sensor for capturing images through the lens;

a memory, connected to the light sensor, for storing the  
images captured through the lens;

25 means for detecting that the electronic camera is  
connected to an external device and the external device is in  
a state which permits communicating; and

means for communicating between the electronic camera and the external device, when the electronic camera is detected to be connected to the external device and the external device is detected to be in a state which permits communicating.

8. An electronic camera according to claim 7, further comprising:

a switch which indicates whether the electronic camera is to transmit or receive images,

wherein the means for communicating transmits the images to the external device when the switch indicates that the electronic camera is to transmit the images; and

wherein the means for communicating receives the images from the external device when the switch indicates that the electronic camera is to receive the images.

9. An electronic camera according to claim 8, wherein:

the switch further indicates whether the electronic camera is to store the images captured through the lens or to play images which are stored in the electronic camera, when the means for detecting does not detect a connection of the electronic camera to the external device and the external device is in a state which permits communicating.

10. An electronic camera according to claim 9, wherein:

the switch is a single switch both indicates whether the camera is to record or play images, and whether the electronic camera is to transmit or receive images.

11. An electronic camera according to claim 8, further comprising:

a second switch which indicates whether the electronic camera is to store the images captured through the lens or to play images which are stored in the electronic camera.

12. An electronic camera according to claim 7, wherein the means for communicating communicates in response to a detection by the means for detecting without utilizing an electrical-mechanical switch which indicates that the camera is to utilize a communication mode.

13. An electronic camera according to claim 7, wherein: the means for detecting monitors a signal output by the external device which indicates that the external device is ready to communicate.

14. An electronic camera according to claim 13, wherein:

the means for detecting monitors a signal output by the external device which indicates that a data terminal is ready.

15. An electronic camera according to claim 14, wherein:

the means for detecting monitors a data terminal ready (DTR) signal of an RS-232 signal output by the external device.